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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Thomas Thoröe SCHERB et al.

Group Art Unit: 1731

Appln. No. : 09/769,464

Examiner: Unknown

Filed : January 26, 2001

For : MACHINE AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING A TISSUE WEB

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98,
Applicants submit the following documents for the Examiner's consideration:

(1) U.S. Patent No. 5,746,887, issued to Wendt et al. on May 5, 1998, which is
discussed in the above-captioned application beginning on page 1, paragraph [0003] of the
disclosure;

(2) U.S. Patent No. 5,492,598, issued to Hermans et al. on February 20, 1996, which
is discussed in the above-captioned application beginning on page 1, paragraph [0003] of the
disclosure;

(3) Swedish Patent No. 427 053, issued to Strom on February 28, 1983; which is
discussed in the above-captioned application beginning on page 1, paragraph [0003] of the
disclosure. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith an English

language translation of the above-noted document;

(4) International Patent Publication No. WO 00/12817, issued to Hay et al. on March 9, 2000; which is discussed in the above-captioned application beginning on page 1, paragraph [0003] of the disclosure;

Applicants submit herewith a copy of a German Search Report dated April 5, 2000, performed in connection with German Patent Application 100 03 684.8, a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular, the German Examiner cited:

(5) German Patent Application No. 197 32 879 A1, published February 4, 1999, as a "Y" category document (i.e., a document that calls into question the inventive step when considered with another document from this category). In particular, the German Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claims 1-2, 9, 11-14, 16, 22-24 of the German application.

(6) German Patent No. DE 42 24 730 C1, issued September 2, 1993, as a "Y" category document. In particular, the German Examiner indicated the entire document as relevant to claims 1-7, 10-11, 15-18, 21-22 of the German application. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant submits herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,393,384, issued to Steiner et al. on February 28, 1995, which is a U.S. Patent family member of the above-cited German document.

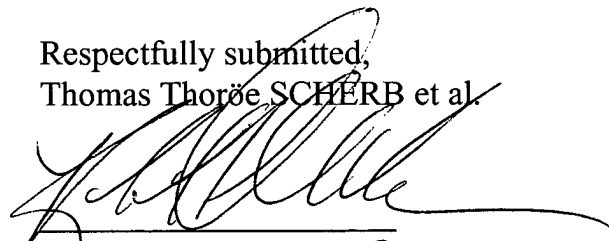

(7) German Patent Application No. DE 196 54 198 A1, published June 25, 1998, as

a "Y" category document. In particular, the German Examiner indicated Figures 1, 54 and 56 as relevant to claim 14 of the German application. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant submits herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 6,004,429, issued to Schiel on December 21, 1999, which is a U.S. Patent family member of the above-cited German document.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider all of the above materials and cite the U.S. and German patent documents. Copies of the U.S. patents and the German documents are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the PTO-1449 Form and to return the form to the Applicant with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Thoröe SCHERB et al.


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